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March 4, 1948

PMA FARM NEWS

RAIN AT THE WINDOW

Rain beating at the window, wind moaning in the eaves, and a moonless night are the setting for many a story of fiction tragedy. Except for the moonless night, they also are the setting for a story of real tragedy--a story which may be even more tragic depending on what we do or don't do in the future.

The rain at the window and the wind in the eaves tell two powerful stories. One is of green pastures, abundant harvests, healthy people and happy homes. The other is of dust storms, muddy water, gullied farms, wasted land, poverty and desolation.

The kind of a story depends on the farmers. The wind can mean moisture-laden clouds moving in from the ocean carrying rain for growing crops. Or the wind can mean clouds of dust--precious topsoil--blowing away. The rain can mean muddy water carrying away tons of our limited soil to the ocean.

Perhaps, no country and no people have squandered more of their most precious natural resource--our soil, from which comes food and life. In the short span of 300 years since the Pilgrims landed, the layer of topsoil in which we grow our food has been reduced from 9 to 6 inches.

And the story of the rain at the window and the wind in the eaves may be just as hopeful or just as tragic for the people who live in apartments and flats as to the folks who live on the farm. Their living comes from the land just as does the living of the farmer and his family. All depend on the soil for food.

Through an effective soil and water conservation program the people in town as well as the folks on the farm can read in the wind and the rain the story of abundant harvests and plenty of food or just the reverse. It depends on the farmer. Proper conservation of the land means abundance, neglect means trouble.

In the Agricultural Conservation Program we have a nation wide grass roots conservation effort that is proving effective. Administered by farmer-elected committeemen, it is based on practical farm operations. Progress is being made, but to do the job effectively will require the understanding cooperation of everyone. There is much still to be done.

NEEDS ESTIMATES AND PROGRAM
CONFERENCE CALLED

Louisiana will be represented at a 2-day conference on conservation needs and the Agricultural Conservation Program to be held at Memphis, Tennessee, March 24 and 25. Named to attend the conference are Mr. John Doles, Chairman of the State Committee; Mr. L. A. Mullin, Executive Officer, Mr. R. A. Wasson, Extension Service Agronomist and member of the State Technical Committee, and several members of the State Office Staff.

Mr. Doles, the State PMA Chairman, says that the study of conservation needs is of increasing importance. Not only does it affect the allocation of funds between States, but, of greater importance, the needs estimates serve as a guide in program planning and administration.

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He explained that for the past 3 years county and community agricultural conservation committees have been conducting needs surveys to determine how much conservation is needed -- for example, how many farms need terraces and how many and the size of terraces that are needed on each farm.

States also will be asked to have their recommendations on the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program in Washington by May 1. At the conference State representatives will have a chance to discuss proposed changes in the program.

Some of the questions to be discussed at the regional conference are: What changes in the program will be needed to get all the farmers who need conservation work to carry out conservation practices on their farms? What assurance can be had that assistance will be given only for conservation that would not be done without program aid? How can an effective crop-rotation system be established on every farm?

Also to be considered at the meeting are means for making more effective the findings of the conservation needs surveys, local practices, the use of State technical committee, and long-time program planning.

WORLD FOOD OUTLOOK IMPROVED
BUT STILL BELOW PREWAR

World food prospects are improving but there is still a long time to go until the harvests are in, current reports received by the Louisiana Production and Marketing Administration office indicate.

Some of the high points of recent world crop reports are: Australia's 1947 wheat production, according to the mid-December official estimate, now stands at 226 million bushels, the largest crop on record for Australia. It is 110 million bushels larger than the crop of 1946.

No official crop estimates have been released by the Argentine government, but unofficial estimates range upward from 225 million bushels. Corn crop prospects there also are reported to be excellent.

World rice production has risen to about 96 percent of prewar production. Supplies are about 2 million tons larger than last year.

However, the world's breadbasket will not be full this year. More than that, there will be a much smaller reserve of grains in the world's pantries.

The Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations says in its latest report: "Further increases in production of cereals, rice, fats and oils, sugar and feeds are likely if favorable weather conditions continue and acreage intentions for 1948 are carried out. However, supplies of those products on a per capita basis, would still be below prewar and would permit only a moderate relaxation of the present stringent levels of consumption in the deficit producing countries."

PLENTY OF EGGS THIS YEAR Egg production in 1948 is expected to be ample for all normal requirements, including eggs for hatching, for domestic consumption, for military needs, and for commercial exports. On February 1, potential layers on farms numbered 408 million; this compares with 413 million on farms on the same date in 1947.

The prospective supply for domestic consumption is 380 to 385 eggs per capita, about the same as consumers used in 1947. This figure represents a high consumption, but any large surplus of eggs for 1948 seems unlikely because competing foods may be short.

Government agencies hope to minimize the need for any active price-support program this year by stressing the seasonal abundance of eggs and thus keeping the current production moving in regular market channels to consumer outlets or into commercial storage for consumption later on after the flush production season.

LIVESTOCK ON FARMS CONTINUE
DECLINE IN NUMBERS

Livestock on farms and ranches declined during 1947 to the lowest numbers since 1939. Numbers have dropped 4 years in succession since reaching the all-time peak on January 1, 1944.

Behind the decline are high prices for meat animals and for feed, plus reduced feed supplies in the last half of the year. These conditions encouraged marketing and closer culling of flocks and breeding herds, thus resulting in a heavy rate of slaughter in relation to inventory numbers.

Decreased cattle numbers resulted from a record slaughter of cattle and calves and reduced imports of cattle from Mexico. Liquidation of sheep numbers continued during 1947, but the rate of decline was more moderate than in any year since 1942; the January 1 number of stock sheep for 1948 being the smallest since records began in 1867. Hog numbers were the lowest since 1941. Numbers of horses and mules declined sharply, continuing the downward trend which began in 1915 for horses and in 1925 for mules. Chickens on farms numbered the fewest since 1941, and the turkey inventory showed the smallest number of record beginning in 1929.

Notwithstanding the smaller numbers of every kind of livestock and poultry, the farm value of the January 1, 1948 inventory hit a record high of 13,451 million dollars, 12 percent above last year and 90 percent above the 1937-46 average. Only for horses and mules were values per head lower than last year.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHECKS ACP PRACTICES

Farmers of _____ parish are indebted to the training and experience of the PMA State technical committee for help in establishing sound conservation practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program. All practices under the 1948 program have been carefully checked by the PMA technical committee.

When the list of national practices are reviewed by the State, the technical committee helps determine which practices from the national outline should be selected for the State. Specifications are drawn up for the selected practices and farmers must follow these specifications to qualify for financial assistance under the program.

for domestic consumption, for military needs, and for commercial exports. On the average, potential buyers on farms numbered 108 million; 21.5 million in 1947. The prospective supply for domestic consumption is 300 to 350 eggs per capita, about the same as consumers used in 1947. This figure represents a high consumption level, but any large surplus of eggs for 1948 seems unlikely because competing needs may be short.

Government agencies hope to minimize the need for any active price-support program this year by stressing the seasonal abundance of eggs and thus keeping the current production moving in regular market channels to consumer outlets or into commercial storage for consumption later on after the high production season.

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Notwithstanding the smaller numbers of every kind of livestock and poultry, the farm value of the January 1, 1948 inventory hit a record high of 13,421 million dollars, 12 percent above last year and 90 percent above the 1937-40 average. Only for horses and mules were values per head lower than last year.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHECKS ACP PRACTICES
Reports of the Technical Committee for help in establishing sound conservation practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program. All practices under the 1948 program have been carefully checked by the FMA technical committee. When the list of national practices are reviewed by the State, the technical committee helps determine which practices from the national outline should be selected for the State. Specifications are drawn up for the selected practices and farmers must follow these specifications to qualify for financial assistance under the program.

This committee is made up of Extension Service agronomists, Experiment Station soil and crop specialists, Soil Conservation Service technicians, and Extension Service Forestry Experts.

Members of the technical committee have a significant and vital part in developing the ACP. When recommendations come in from parishes for the next year's program, the State PMA committee calls a meeting of the technical committee and together they go over the recommendations to keep the practices and specifications in line with research results.

CANADIAN FARMERS SEE CONSERVATION NEEDS

"Neglected and wasted land dies and eventually the people die with it."

With these emphatic and foreboding words an Ontario, Canada, farmer and milk producer in a recent statement brought home to Canadian farmers their responsibility to maintain the soil.

He explained "a hundred years ago my grandfather cut down the forest in Lambton County—a forest that it had taken hundreds of years to grow. And in that hundred years since my grandfather cut down the forest we've done a good job of using up and eroding out the humus that it took nature thousands of years to put into the soil."

ACP HELPS RESTORE SOIL'S ORGANIC MATTER

Many farmers of (Parish) are getting help from the Agricultural Conservation Program to replenish the organic matter in their soils this spring, according to (Name), chairman of the (Parish) Agricultural Conservation Committee.

This help is offered, he explains, since green manure and cover crops are an important means for protecting, restoring and maintaining soils. Program assistance is offered for planting and turning under cover crops as green manure and also for adding plant foods to the soil so that cover crops can be grown. Legume cover crops have a special value because they add nitrogen as well as organic matter to the soil.

The chairman points out that in most parts of the country which have been under continuous cultivation, the amount of organic matter in the soil has greatly declined. He cites tests in Kansas to illustrate the point. The organic matter in five different soil types that had been in sod averaged 108,050 pounds to the acre, as compared with 69,500 pounds in soils that had been in cultivated crops for most of the 30-year period.

Different methods are used in various parts of the country to replenish the organic matter of soils, the chairman explains. In the South and other sections where soils wash during the winter, cover crops grow through winter months and are turned under as green manure in the spring. In the colder portions of the country, legumes — such as the clovers — and other crops are planted in the spring and turned under later the same year or the following year.

This committee is made up of American, Canadian, British, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Soviet, and other countries. It is a very important body.

The committee has been working for some time on the problem of soil conservation. It has held many meetings and has received many suggestions from the various countries. It is now preparing a report on the subject.

It is very important that the committee should be able to make a report on the subject of soil conservation. It is a very important problem and one which affects all countries.

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He explained that the committee has been working for some time on the problem of soil conservation. It has held many meetings and has received many suggestions from the various countries. It is now preparing a report on the subject.

According to the committee, the problem of soil conservation is a very important one. It is a problem which affects all countries and one which must be solved if we are to have a better world.

There is a great deal of work to be done in the field of soil conservation. It is a work which requires the cooperation of all countries and one which must be done if we are to have a better world.

The chairman pointed out that in 1935, the committee had received many suggestions from the various countries. It is now preparing a report on the subject of soil conservation. It is a very important problem and one which affects all countries.

Various methods are used in various parts of the country to conserve the soil. In the North and West, the methods are different from those used in the South and East. It is a very important problem and one which must be solved if we are to have a better world.

In the dry-farming parts of the country, straw and other crop residues are worked into the soil to accomplish a similar purpose. A recommended practice in all parts of the country is to get the land back into grass, or grasses and legumes, after it has been cultivated a few years.

Organic matter helps hold and build up the soil in a number of ways, the chairman explains. It improves "tilth," helps protect soil from wind and water, and improves water holding capacity.

F O R Y O U R I N F O R M A T I O N

MICHIGANDERS TELL HOW ACP WORKS Michigan farmers again voted by mail in the annual Agricultural Conservation Program elections last fall with one county registering a 64-percent vote among eligible farmers. A number of counties passed the 50-percent mark, and the average for the State appears well over 35 percent.

News stories and radio, before, during and after the vote played a strong part in stirring the interest of Michigan farmers in the annual ACP election, says Chairman Maurice Doan. In the two folders of clippings assembled by the State Office and arranged by counties in alphabetical order are many that begin like the following:

"Preparations are being made for the annual AAA elections of farmer committees in the rural townships of _____ county."

"Final details have been completed for the AAA community committee elections..."

"A total of _____ ballots were cast by _____ county farmers in the annual election of AAA community committeemen."

Several stories appeared in a foreign language newspaper.

The collection of clippings includes 237 stories from 52 counties.

* * * * *

CONDENSED CONSERVATION Another community has gone in for concentrated conservation. This time it's Seminole, Oklahoma. A conservation field day with \$1,500 in prize money gave the project the atmosphere of a country fair. On January 20 more than 6,000 people watched years of conservation condensed into one day.

The project was sponsored by a former highway commissioner who had turned to agriculture as a hobby and by the Seminole Chamber of Commerce. It included the construction of 22,875 linear feet of terraces, fertilizing of 60 acres of pasture, filling 1,000 feet of gullies, sodding of 24 terrace outlets, and the construction and sodding of 1,250 feet of a farm pond dam, the removal of 2½ miles of old fence, the construction of the same amount of new fence, and the leveling of ½ mile of fence row.

In the dry farming parts of the country, where and other crop raising are practiced the soil is so compacted a similar surface, a recommended practice in all parts of the country is to put the land back into grass, or wheat and alfalfa, after it has been cultivated a few years.

Organic matter twice built up the soil in a number of years, the chemical analysis. It improves "tilth" helps prevent soil from wind and water, and improves water holding capacity.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MICHIGANERS TELL HOW AGRICULTURE Michigan farmers again voted to pass the annual Agricultural Conservation Program election last fall with one county reporting a 62-percent vote among eligible farmers. A number of counties passed the 50-percent mark, and the average for the State appears well over 55 percent.

New stories and radio, before, during and after the vote played a strong part in winning the interest of Michigan farmers in the annual AAC election, says Chairman Maurice Dean. In the two folders of clippings assembled by the State Office and arranged by counties in alphabetical order are many such items like the following:

"Representatives are being made for the annual AAC election of farmer committees in the rural township of _____ county."

"Final details have been completed for the AAC community committee election."

"A total of _____ ballots were cast by _____ county farmers in the annual election of AAC community committee."

Several stories appeared in a foreign language newspaper.

The collection of clippings includes 237 stories from 32 counties.

CONSERVED CONSERVATION Another community has gone in for a conserved conservation. This time it's Benning, Oklahoma. A conservation field day with \$1,500 in prize money gave the project the atmosphere of a county fair. On January 20 more than 6,000 people watched years of conservation condensed into one day.

The project was sponsored by a former highway commissioner who had turned to agriculture as a hobby and by the Benning Chamber of Commerce. It included the construction of 25,000 feet of barbed wire, leveling of 20 acres of pasture, filling 1,000 feet of gulches, setting of 25 service outlets, and the construction and sodding of 1,250 feet of a farm road, the removal of 15 miles of old fence, the construction of the same amount of new fence, and the leveling of 1 mile of fence.

The real value of such projects is not so much the amount of conservation accomplished as the focusing of attention on conservation and its importance in holding the soil as a means to continued abundant production.

* * * * *

HOW FRANKLIN CO., TENN., DOES IT The Tennessee State PMA office reports on how farm news is handled in Franklin County, an idea that might be adapted locally in any county where there is a local newspaper.

All of the agricultural agencies in Franklin County (such as AAA, Extension Service, FHA, SCS) furnish to the Cowan Times, a new weekly, news articles of interest to Franklin County farmers. These articles are written and left with the county agent to be picked up by a representative of the paper on Friday. The newspaper uses these articles for a farm sheet headed, "Farm News of Franklin County."

The State office points out that farmers soon learn to look for that section of the paper to find news of particular interest to them.

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U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
PMA FARM NEWS

CONSERVATION COSTS MONEY

No matter how you figure conservation costs something -- usually money. And if we let things go we'll pay for our conservation many times over -- and we won't get it. The cost will be greatest if the job is neglected for then it will be paid in high priced food of poorer quality and reduced quantity.

What many of us forget about conservation is that it's a national responsibility and that the Nation in one way or another is going to pay for it.

If we let erosion take our land, we'll soon be paying by having less food and a lower standard of living. And the farmer isn't the only one who will suffer. In fact, the farmer may still be able to produce enough for his own use.

The longer the Nation waits the more there will be to do and at a considerably higher price. And once the top-soil of a farm gets down into the Gulf of Mexico we won't get it back.

When it comes to ways of getting the job done it costs money and time and energy whether it is left solely to the individual farmer, or done through a publicly supported conservation program. Many of the most needed projects require the services of people with special engineering skill, Educational helps, and the use of costly machinery and equipment also are among the essentials.

The Agricultural Conservation program is merely a means whereby the farmer gets some financial and material help for the most needed conservation jobs. Many of the jobs would not be done without that help. The program is a means for speeding up the needed action and for concentrating on practices which must have first attention. Operated through farmer-elected committees it is a thoroughly democratic way of getting a needed job done.

SHELLED CORN DRYING TEST STARTED

A cooperative corn drying experiment under the Federal Marketing Research Act is underway in Indiana which may have far reaching effects for both corn growers and commercial users.

Shelled corn with 25 percent or more of moisture, supplied by the American Corn Products Refining Co., will be placed in two steel bins of 2,730 bushels capacity (18 ft. wide and 13 ft. high). Each bin contains a false bottom and warm air of around 130 degrees temperature will be blown into each bin between the false bottom and the floor. The warm air escaping upward through the corn will carry the moisture out through the top. A portable type farm drier will be used.

The corn from one of the bins will be shipped for processing immediately after drying while the other will be held over to determine the effects at germination time and to observe the condition of the corn throughout the summer.

The purpose is to develop a practical, low-cost method of low-temperature drying which will eliminate the losses and difficulties of handling, shipping and storing high-moisture shelled corn. It is hoped the method also will be applicable to wheat, oats, soy beans and other crops.

The project is under the general direction of Ed Ellison of the Grain Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Henry Barre of the Indiana Agricultural Experiment Station is in charge of the test, with the Indiana State Production and Marketing Administration Committee cooperating.

MORE FOOD FROM THE SAME AMOUNT OF LAND

Land is limited but population is increasing, and the only way the individual can continue eating as much as now is to conserve and improve the land to produce more food from each acre.

This is a simple way of summing up the serious soil and water conservation problem facing America today.

Our hope for the future comes from examples of farmers and ranchers who are making their acres produce more now and keeping up their land so that it will keep on producing.

As a good example of how farmers are taking care of the present and not forgetting the future take D. B. Brooks, farmer of Shiro community, Walker County, Texas. Through assistance under the Agricultural Conservation Program, Mr. Brooks has been able to produce two steers where one "grew" before.

This Texas farmer operates a 300-acre farm; 100 acres of open pasture, 125 acres of timber, and 75 acres cultivated. The pasture was worn out. Lime, phosphate, the seeding of adapted clovers and grasses, mowing of weeds and careful stocking brought it back. A better calf crop and heavier calves, ready for market 30 to 60 days earlier than before was the result.

The Agricultural Conservation Program helped him get started and helped him get the job done. A doubling of current food supplies from the same acreage and the assurance of continued abundant production, is the nation's dividend for helping farmer Brooks with his conservation job.

COVER CROP PLOW-UNDER TIME IS HERE

It's harvest time for some of the nation's important conservation crops: cover and green-manure crops, reports _____ (Name) _____, Chairman of the _____ (Parish) _____ Agricultural Conservation Committee. Farmers, he explains, are now in the process of turning under the cover crops that were planted last fall. Though figures are not available the acreage is expected to be as large as that of the year before when 21,335,000 acres were recorded. (Substitute parish figures if you wish.)

The chairman points out that this figure is nearly four times the acreage in 1936, the beginning of the agricultural conservation program when 5,750,000 acres were turned under.

However, even the plantings of today are far short of those needed to improve and protect the nation's soils, the chairman states. An ACP survey indicates that at least 98,750,000 acres of cover crops should be turned under every year.

In holding and building soils, the chairman points out, cover crops and green-manure crops do several things. Their roots hold soil particles so that they cannot be blown or washed away. The growing plants take up left-over plant foods in the soil so that they are not leached away, break the fall of raindrops and thus prevent splash erosion. Legume cover crops also add nitrogen to the soil. Some of the plants, such as alfalfa and sweet clover, send their tap-roots through hard layers of sub-soil and thus help break them up. And when any of the cover crops are turned under they add to the organic matter of the soil.

WAR PRESSURE ON LAND CONTINUES

"The way we keep drawing on our land for increased production, you'd never know the war has been over for over 2 years," says Mr. John Doles, chairman of the Louisiana State agricultural conservation committee. "We haven't slowed down a bit -- in fact we're trying to get more out of our soil today than ever before."

This year, he explains, goals again call for record production. Except for one or two years, the land has been turning out record crops ever since 1937. American farms are producing about 40 percent more food than they did before the war.

The chairman believes this continued high production cannot keep up without putting back in the land plant food elements that are being taken out. As he puts it, "the land will crack up sooner or later if we don't."

But he explains, to meet consumer needs in this country and have enough food to share with Europe to help her back on her feet it is necessary to keep on producing all we can. And this, says the chairman, emphasizes the importance of the Agricultural Conservation Program with its practices to maintain soils and to keep soil losses and depletion to a minimum.

To indicate what is happening, he points out that a 30-bushel crop of wheat takes out of the ground the equivalent of a 100-pound sack of 20-percent phosphate. This means that 500 million bushels of wheat shipped to Europe would take something like 17 million 100-pound sacks of phosphate. Even more nitrogen and potash are used up, not to mention other essential minerals.

Growing cultivated crops opens the land to erosion -- speeds it up many times. To get by, this means shorter rotations, more humus from manure and crop residues, and more attention to contour farming. And just as soon as we can, some of this land should be turned out to grass or put into legumes. The ACP is set up to help farmers meet this problem,

1. The first part of the report is a general statement of the purpose and scope of the study.

2. The second part of the report is a detailed description of the methods used in the study.

3. The third part of the report is a discussion of the results of the study.

4. The fourth part of the report is a conclusion and a list of references.

5. The fifth part of the report is an appendix containing additional data and figures.

6. The sixth part of the report is a bibliography of the literature cited in the study.

7. The seventh part of the report is a list of the names of the authors and their affiliations.

ARGENTINE CORN PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

Argentina's corn harvest, beginning in March, is expected to be larger than last year's 229 million bushels, and may reach as high as 275 million. If the crop is that large, the exportable surplus during the year beginning April 1 may be at least 150 million bushels. Exports during the current season have amounted to about 80 million bushels.

No official estimate of the acreage planted for this year's crop is available but the area is believed to be about the same as the 8.9 million acres reported last year.

In area, Argentina is about equal to the 11 Mountain and Pacific States of the United States. More than 86 million acres in the U. S. were planted to corn during 1947.

F O R Y O U R I N F O R M A T I O N

WORK OF COMMITTEEMEN LAUDED

Less money, fewer people to do the work, new problems and unsolved old ones all add to the troubles of county ACP Chairman. But one of these Chairmen from an Iowa county took time out the other day to praise the work of the "much forgotten man" in the ACProgram -- the Community Committeeman.

He said: "Let us pause a moment and pay tribute to a group of men not too often mentioned in connection with the soil conservation program -- the township elected committeemen who are in reality the hub or the part of the wheel around which our whole program revolves."

He recalled the difficulties encountered in getting the program started back in the Thirties and added: "It is to the everlasting credit of elected community and county committeemen, the home people who worked in AAA offices, the farmer-fieldmen and the state committeemen that the program got under way."

He gave two reasons for the program's success:

"(1) The administration of the program didn't bog down in either inefficiency or corruption because farmers themselves wrote it.

"(2) AAA committeemen didn't gulp down directives from Washington. They chewed them carefully, and if they didn't understand them or didn't like the taste, they fought like everything for revisions. Usually they got them."

Al Loveland was cited as an example of the strength of the committee plan. The County Committee Chairman put it this way, "Several years ago Al left his milk stool to attend a township meeting and was elected committeeman. Later he was elected to the county committee; promoted to farmer-fieldman, selected for the State committee chairmanship and now he heads up the ACP in Washington.

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PMA FARM NEWS

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BEES AID SOIL CONSERVATION

Bees have more to do with conservation of the soils of this country than most people realize.

It is the legumes, such as red clover, alfalfa, lespedeza, vetches and others, that add great quantities of organic matter and nitrogen to the soils each year. The nitrogen increases crops, particularly the grasses in pastures and meadows. Grasses improve the tilth of soil. Soils in good tilth resist erosion. So it is the legumes that start the chain of beneficial actions that ultimately bring the soil to the condition that it resists erosion.

And bees are essential to legumes. They make something like 160,000 visits to the blossoms of the legumes to gather the nectar that will make a pound of honey. And while they're making those nectar gathering visits, they help pollination, which leads to the production of legume seeds.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates there will be an increase of 4 percent in the shipments of package bees over the 1,375,000 pounds shipped last year. Reports from Texas indicate that the demand for queens is considerably heavier than last year, when 1,007,200 queens were shipped.

USE ACP IN PRODUCING GOALS,
SAYS CHAIRMAN

"Produce your goals, but don't overlook ACP practices as a way to offset the drains on your land," is the advice of _____, Chairman of the

_____(Name)_____ Parish Agricultural Conservation Committee. Farmers in the parish have a choice of about _____(number)_____ different practices in order to qualify for assistance under this year's program.

Farmers know that their land is being pushed too hard and want to start returning to better rotations and more soil-conservation practices, _____(Name)_____ explained. At the same time, the continuing large demands for food, both in this country and abroad, make it necessary to keep farm output of most crops at wartime highs. So farmers generally go along with the goals, and take whatever steps they can to rebuild their soil and keep it from washing away.

National totals on 1948 goal acreages are expected to be somewhere around 354 million acres. The exact figure is not known just now because goals for peanuts, some types of tobacco, sweetpotatoes, and truck crops for processing are still under consideration by States. Assuming 1948 goals for these few crops at Department recommended levels, however, the 1948 goal of around 354 million acres would exceed 1947 actual acreages by 7.5 million acres.

KANSAS FARM COMES BACK

Bringing a farm back into production after it has been counted out is not only heroic and dramatic but it's a real contribution to the strength of the Nation's defense and security, says Mr. John Doles, chairman of the Louisiana PMA committee.

He said that recently he received a story of how a Kansas farm had been brought back into production, which illustrates what can be done with hard work, ingenuity, and cooperation through the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Lawrence A. Fuqua and his family went on a run-down and worn-out farm 4 years ago. In that 4 years they have brought this place back into production and made it one of the leading farms in the production of Grade-A milk.

Already the conservation practices carried out under the ACP are showing up in soil saving and greater production. His terraces returned dividends last spring when a 4-inch rain fell right after he had planted 1½ acres of sargo. Not a row of sargo was lost, and Mr. Fuqua says that he knows what would have happened if the water had been allowed to rush down the slopes in such a rain.

Pasture-improvement practices such as proper grazing, seeding of adapted grasses and legumes have supplied Mr. Fuqua's dairy herd with a good economical source of feed for spring, summer and fall.

This farm, which, the chairman points out, was hardly producing enough for the people who farmed it, is now turning out food to be shipped to town markets. Through a little assistance to Mr. Fuqua in helping him build back this farm, the Nation now has an additional source of good nourishing food.

HOW MANY FARMS IN THE OCEAN? Many years ago a wise Midwest farmer recognized what was happening to good farming land in America when he said, "The best part of my farm is down below New Orleans."

We wonder if anyone has thought to count the number of farms which go under the bridge during a single flood season. Tests show that around 400 million tons of topsoil roll down the Mississippi River each year. An inch of topsoil from an acre of land weighs between 140 and 150 tons. At 150 tons of topsoil per acre, this loss would mean the equivalent of an inch of topsoil from 2-2/3 million acres.

The Columbia, Colorado, Rio Grande, and many other rivers are rolling soil out to sea too, but the Mississippi alone carries the equivalent of an inch of topsoil from the surface of nearly 17,000 farms of 160 acres each.

And even more serious the topsoil comes from the best land on the farm--the land that is in row crops or which is being worked most to produce the nation's crops.

Like the sand in the hour-glass, the soil at the top is going down. But unlike the hour-glass the process cannot be reversed. The topsoil does not run back.

From that limited amount of topsoil, which is getting less each year, must come the 435 million meals a day for the 145 million people in this country. In addition, tons and tons of food are needed to keep Europe from going under.

And every farm that goes under the bridge means just that much less land from which to grow the food we need--that much more of a burden on the land that is left.

The primary objective of the Agricultural Conservation Program is to reduce this loss. Through this program the Nation cooperates with its farmers in carrying out conservation practices which keep the soil and water on the farm.

SOME IRONIES OF SOIL CONSERVATION

The following are quotations from an editorial in "Agricultural Engineering" for January 1948:

Conservationists are an unique and useful but unenviable minority in America.

To the extent that their efforts interfere with immediate individual profit by wasteful exploitation, they are positively damned as meddlers in other people's business.

Soil conservation has won limited and grudging support only as a last desperate measure after the damage already done has become painfully obvious. As yet, few seem to see soil conservation as a phase of the conservation of human life.

Soil erosion may be measured physically in tons of the best topsoil...

It may be interpreted economically in terms of real dollar values slipping through the fingers of farmers...

It may be classified socially as one of those abuses of new-found freedom which helps to weaken the foundations of freedom.

Neglect of their soil by landowners just does not check with their reaction to other forms of capital losses. When one of their buildings is on fire, they don't ordinarily wait to see how far they can let it burn before trying to put out the fire.

And some farmers who are too civilized to deliberately leave their children or grandchildren in a burning building, seem to have little or no feeling about leaving them to the more prolonged agonies of a washed-out farm.

The only apparent answer is that these farmers, however much they may have heard about soil conservation, simply cannot or will not believe that the most valuable part of their farms is slipping away from them under their own eyes, without their seeing it happen.

1948 POTATO PRICE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

In Louisiana, prices for spring Irish potatoes of the 1948 crop will be supported at a basic price of \$3.05 per 100 pounds, U.S. No. 1 grade, from the beginning of the season through May, according to Mr. John Doles, chairman of the Louisiana Production and Marketing Administration. Monthly price supports after that time are: \$2.90 through June, \$2.70 through July, (etc.).

To be eligible for 1948 price supports, Mr. Doles explained, growers must (1) comply with their individual farm potato acreage goals, (2) sell specified lower grades of potatoes either to the Department of Agriculture or contracting dealers

who will limit their disposal to outlets approved by the Department, and (3) pay a service fee in connection with establishing eligibility. Growers may also be required to enter into written agreements with the Department, covering these requirements and other matters such as limiting the amount of potatoes which may be offered within certain time periods. Interested potato growers should contact the parish ACA office which is located at _____ for details of the program.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

GETTING TOGETHER A lot of us have talked about getting a better understanding between farmers and the folks in town. We've complained that the people along Main Street don't know enough about our program. Well, Goshen County, Wyoming, farmers and ranchers and business and professional folks have been doing something about it.

Once a month they get together and talk things over. The occasion is a monthly "Dutch-treat" luncheon sponsored by the various communities in the county.

These get-together luncheons are provided by the county Agricultural conservation committee, of which Amos Gillespie is the present chairman.

The responsibility for "getting up" a program for the luncheon is passed around. One community has it one month, and another the next, and so on.

How about working out a similar plan in your parish?

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IRON AND STEEL SCRAP FOR MAXIMUM STEEL PRODUCTION

The Secretary of Agriculture is in receipt of a letter from the Honorable John R. Steelman, the Assistant to the President, requesting that all agencies within the Department continue to cooperate in the policy of disposing of equipment and material not needed for use in their work. This policy should result in the recovery of considerable undiscovered scrap, obsolete equipment or material and other items that might yield iron or steel scrap.

All parish offices should place in line for immediate disposal, under existing rules for disposition of such property, anything they may have available. Even though the amount of scrap in any one parish office might seem small in itself, the total of such small lots from all the many parish offices and other agency offices within the Department would make a worth while contribution.

1956
A2 P116
March 25, 1948

Reserve

PMA FARM NEWS

SAVE YOUR SOIL* The soil is our greatest natural resource, the foundation of our own prosperity and the basis of the welfare of generations to come. The world-wide scarcity of food and the high cost of living have brought home to everyone the basic importance of agriculture, the essential place of the farmer in our economy and our dependence on the land.

Nearly all of our food and most of our clothing and shelter come from the soil. Whether we continue to have plenty of food to eat and whether we continue to live well in the future will depend much on what we do to conserve our soils and improve our farms.

Our population is increasing at the rate of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ million people a year. But there is no increase in the acreage of productive cultivatable land. Practically all of the good farm lands of the nation have already been put to the plow. And each year some cultivated land is abandoned to the ravages of erosion. As population increases, the amount of land available per individual will decrease.

National preservation and good living depend on good farming. Soil building on a nationwide scale is a nationwide need. The forces that deplete soil fertility—wind, water, erosion, and removal of crops and sale of livestock—never cease. They operate around the clock, year in and year out.

Farmers have done much in recent years to arrest erosion and to restore soil fertility. The AAA, the PMA, the SCS, the Extension Service, Forest Service, Vocational Teachers, and other forces have assisted farmers in soil conservation.

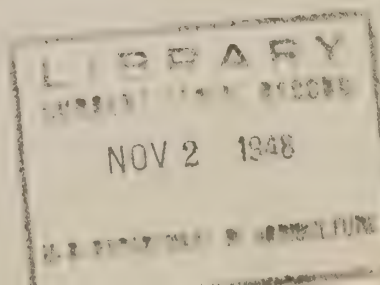
But much remains to be done before conservation is practiced on all the land that needs it. Many acres of washing hill lands are still unterraced. We have only made a start in contour farming and strip cropping. Winter cover crops, valuable as they are in slowing erosion and adding nitrogen, are successfully grown on a comparatively small acreage.

Much progress has been made in the larger use of lime, basic slag, superphosphate and potash. But the total amount of these plant food elements used is small compared to the quantity needed. A vast acreage of cropland has never received any lime and only a relatively small acreage in pasture is fertilized each year.

Every member of every national farm loan association can help himself and influence his neighbor by conserving and improving the fertility of the soil on his farm. By example and by precept we can get others to do the job.

It's a job that's too important to be neglected. It's a job that must be done. The successful farmer knows that much of his success depends on the fertility of his land and the productivity of his fields and pastures. Total farm income and net cash returns hinge on high per-acre yields.

*Taken from Federal Land Bank Publication.



ACP SOIL SAVING PARTNERSHIP Both the farmers who carry out the conservation practices and the consumer who helps "foot the bill" can be proud of what they've done under the Agricultural Conservation Program.

This year about \$150 million has been appropriated for conservation under ACP. Divided among the 145 million people in the country, that means a little over a dollar per person. But to the farmer it means that 10 or 20 or maybe 200 or 300 persons are cooperating with him in getting the conservation job done on his farm.

In actual practice, under this partnership program for soil and water conservation, the farmer more than matches every dollar put up by consumers. In addition he usually does all the work. Often, encouraged by the limited help in getting started, he expands his conservation efforts far beyond the basic practices of the program.

Dividends resulting from this public-farmer partnership are many and varied. The farmer has a better farm. Erosion and depletion are slowed down. The farm will last longer. Continued operation is assured and production is increased.

The public benefits from continued abundant production of food and other essential agricultural commodities. The land is being held on the farm and improved. Essentially the program is an insurance policy which continues to pay dividends indefinitely into the future. Both farmer and consumer help pay the dividends and both are the continuing beneficiaries. This partnership is about the most effective way found of getting the job done.

DELAWARE FARMERS MAKING Farmers of Delaware are using the Agricultural Conservation Program with increasing effectiveness in CONSERVATION PROGRESS improving the farm lands of the state, reports C. E. Ocheltree, chairman of the State Production and Marketing Committee.

Among the indications of progress in the three-county State, the chairman cites the following figures:

In 1940 Delaware farmers used 36,500 tons of lime to improve their land; in 1945 they were using nearly 65 thousand tons. Only 292 tons of superphosphate were used on soil improving legumes and grasses in 1940; in 1945 well over 3 thousand tons were used. The acreage of green manure and cover crops increased from 75 thousand acres in 1940 to 136 thousand acres five years later.

Among other practices receiving increased attention by Delaware farmers are the seeding of legumes and grasses to improve pastures, contour stripcropping to prevent water erosion and the construction of drainage ditches.

FLOODS CONSTANT REMINDERS OF CONSERVATION NEED

Nature often has a tragic way of telling us to do something about our soil or we'll soon be without it.

One of these tragic reminders occurred a short time ago in the Palouse country in eastern Washington when untold tons of fertile topsoil were swept from the rolling wheatlands. Heavy spring rains caused whole sections of unprotected hillsides to slide down to the bottom leaving nothing but bare clay sub-soil.

Business sections of cities along the water courses draining this area were flooded. The damage at one city alone was estimated at over a million dollars. Levees broke and people were left homeless.

But it was noted that on farms where the operators had been carrying out effective conservation practices the soil loss was negligible. On summer fallowed land where the stubble was plowed under, soil loss was great. Where clover and other legumes had been seeded the soil was held in place by the roots of these plants. Damage was heaviest in areas where the soil was unprotected and where the plow furrows ran up and down slopes.

Once this soil has been washed away, it takes years to build back another surface layer of fertile soil. This is the story that nature keeps telling us, but too often we don't listen. Instances such as this tragically remind us why there is an Agricultural Conservation Program and how we can use it most effectively. City people also are impressed with the seriousness of the problem which must be solved if all are to continue to eat.

TASTE TELLS Taste evidently tells cows as well as human beings what to eat.

Chairman _____ of the _____ (Parish) _____ Agricultural Conservation Committee cites the case of a Jackson county, Michigan farmer who seeded 24 acres of marsh land to Reed's Canary grass. He got a fine stand. Growth was excellent. But the cattle wouldn't eat it. Instead they grazed an adjoining field of upland bluegrass down to the ground. If forced to eat the Reed's Canary, they didn't do well...their calves were weak.

The next year the farmer put 250 pounds of 0-20-20 on each acre of the Reed's Canary grass. Thereafter, the farmer reports, the cows grazed the Reed's Canary in preference to the upland bluegrass and did well on it.

GRASS CAN SAVE GRAIN By fertilizing their pastures this spring farmers can provide more grass for their livestock, save grain that is needed for human food and conserve and build up their soil, advises _____ (Name) chairman of the _____ (Parish) _____ Agricultural Conservation Committee.

Citing the results of experiments and farm experience, the chairman points out that grasses and legumes in pastures require plant foods just the same as other crops. The plant foods that are usually needed are lime, phosphate and potash. Sometimes some of the rare plant foods, such as boron, cobalt, manganese, zinc and others are needed. When needed plant foods are applied, growth may be speeded up and animals turned on pasture as much as two weeks earlier in the spring.

It is a fact that a large number of people are in the habit of going to the cinema without any other purpose than to see the pictures.

The cinema is a very popular form of amusement, and it is one of the chief means of passing the time of the people. It is a place where people can go to see the latest pictures, and it is a place where they can go to see the latest pictures.

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Sometimes, the chairman points out, the fertilized pastures can be still further hurried along in the spring with a nitrate. In such cases, farmers often put a nitrate on a small part of the pasture. This particularly stimulates those grasses which start growing early. Later, as the weather and soil warm up, the legumes take up the job of gathering nitrogen from the air and the direct application of nitrate is unnecessary.

TECHNOLOGY AND THE FARMER

Enough agricultural products to support himself and more than 13 others was the record chalked up by each farmer and farm worker in wartime 1945. In 1920, one farmer supported only 10 (counting himself), and in 1820 only a little more than 4.

These figures indicate what technology -- applied science -- is doing for agriculture. It is pointed out that in 1945 every man-hour of work meant 44 percent more grass production than in 1917-21. Half of these savings in hours per unit of product resulted from mechanization. Other developments, mainly increases in yields of crops and livestock, were responsible for the other half.

Farm horses and mules have been rapidly replaced by tractors, trucks, and automobiles during the last third of a century. A modern tractor and its equipment now save 850 hours of man labor compared with the time required to do the job with the animal power and equipment used a generation ago. What's more, mechanization has made possible more timely operations, and this has helped increase farm production especially when adverse weather delayed the preparation of land and planting.

The increase in food supplies for feeding an increasing population from 1920 to 1942 came about in this way: 30 percent came from acreages released by the decline in horses and mules; 70 percent from increased crop and livestock yields and from decreased exports.

LOANS TO SUPPORT PRICES OF 1948-CROP SOYBEANS

Loans will be used to support farm prices of the 1948 crop of soybeans, according to a recent Department of Agriculture announcement. The loans will be available to producers until December 31, 1948, and will mature April 30, 1949.

The rate of support for U.S. No. 2 soybeans containing not more than 14 percent moisture will be at 90 percent of the comparable price on September 1, 1948. A "comparable" price corresponds to "parity" price for other agricultural commodities and is used for commodities for which the production or consumption has changed materially since 1910-14, the base parity period.

As of February 15, the comparable price for soybeans was \$2.38 per bushel. Ninety percent of this price would be \$2.14 per bushel. The price support for the 1947 crop was \$2.04 per bushel.

SOME CONSERVATION-CROP
SEED PRICES DOWN

Retail prices of 8 out of 16 seeds of important conservation crops are lower this year than last, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Some of these crops, such as white clover, Kentucky bluegrass and common alfalfa, are important in large sections of the country.

Prices of seeds that have gone down, compared with last year, are as follows: White clover, 80.3 cents a pound, down 27 percent; common alfalfa, \$41.40 per 100 pounds, down 21 percent; Grimm alfalfa, \$52.40, off 13 percent, timothy, \$9.71, down 10 percent; Kentucky bluegrass, 49.4 cents a pound, off 58 percent; common ryegrass, 13.8 cents a pound, down 6 percent; orchard grass, \$23.30 a hundred, down 17 percent; smooth brome grass, \$23.40, down 21 percent.

On the other hand, the price of red clover seed at \$66.90 is up 17 percent; alsike at \$54.00 is only two-tenths of one percent up; Ladino clover seed at \$2.62 a pound is up 25 percent; sweetclover at \$20.90 is 9 percent up; Korean lespedeza at \$15.70 a hundred has jumped 59 percent; redtop at 27.1 cents a pound is up 3 percent; crested wheatgrass at \$36.90 a hundred is up 36 percent; and Sudan grass at \$12.20 is up 3 percent.

NOTE: Under no circumstances should the "PMA Farm News" be given to your local papers "as is", rather you should select the items of particular interest to your area. You may revise any items used if it will make them more effective.

SOME CONSERVATION-CROPS
SEED PRICES DOWN

Partial prices of 8 out of 15 seeds of important conservation crops are lower, this year, than last year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Some of these crops, such as white clover, Kentucky bluegrass and common vetch, are important in large sections of the country.

Prices of seeds that have gone down, compared with last year, are as follows: Alfalfa, 80 cents a pound, down 27 percent; common vetch, 80 cents a pound, down 13 percent; white clover, 80 cents a pound, down 13 percent; Kentucky bluegrass, 17 cents a pound, down 13 percent; common vetch, 17 cents a pound, down 6 percent; annual ryegrass, 80 cents a hundred, down 17 percent; smooth bromegrass, 80 cents a hundred, down 13 percent.

On the other hand, the price of red clover seed at 80 cents a hundred is up 17 percent. Alsike at 45 cents a hundred is only two-tenths of one percent up. Bird's foot trefoil at 23 cents a pound is up 22 percent; sweetclover at 80 cents a hundred is up 22 percent; redtop at 27 cents a hundred is up 3 percent; crested wheatgrass at 30 cents a hundred is up 3 percent; and Sudan grass at 15 cents a hundred is up 3 percent.

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